

**House Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Committee Hearing on HB 585  
Feb. 17, 2009**

The Montana Outfitters and Guides Association supports HB 585.

HB 585 comes from the Private Lands/Public Wildlife Council who heard of the desire for nonresident family members to come home and hunt with the family. They also heard of the need to provide more access to public land that might be landlocked or in some way is currently inaccessible to hunters. HB 585 responds to both those needs.

- 500 new B-10 licenses and 500 new B-11 licenses will be available to nonresidents who are sponsored by residents to the second degree of kinship by blood or marriage.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> degree does not extend to cousins.
- The licenses will be priced at the current price for general draw B-10 and B-11 licenses – \$628 / \$328, respectively, plus the \$10 hunting access enhancement fee.
- These 1,000 new licenses are not a part of current quotas or targets.
- Nonresident applicants must have passed hunters education or have previously held a resident hunting license. They are family members who hunted here before they became nonresidents.
- The applicant must list all family members with whom he or she is eligible to hunt. Nonresidents hunting under these licenses must be accompanied in the field by an eligible family member.
- Excess applications in either pool will result in a drawing. Failure to succeed in the drawing will automatically put the applicant into the appropriate general drawing.
- Funds from these licenses will be deposited into a separate account and used to "acquire public hunting access to inaccessible public land, which may include obtaining hunting access through private land . . ."
- The pilot program is effective March 1, 2010 through March 1, 2014.
- A "Whereas" statement says department statistics will measure the outcome and determine whether the licenses "have resulted in a net increase or decrease in hunting opportunities for resident hunters." While there is nothing in the bill itself that calls for a department report to the next two legislatures, we trust that it will.
- The intent is to experience license years 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. If the program is successful, the department will come to the 2013 Legislature and request an extension of a repeal of the termination date.
- HB 585 is worth the try.

This isn't an outfitter relief bill although outfitters could benefit as family members or as service providers for others. MOGA supports HB 585 because (1) it comes from the PL/PW and (2) it's in everyone's best interests to gain additional access to **public** lands.

Montana is the fourth largest state in the Union (following Alaska, Texas, and California), comprising 147,046 sq. mi. (380,848 sq. km.) or 94,185,600 acres--a total that includes 1,657 sq. mi. (4,293 sq. km.) of inland water surface.

Montana Total Land	94,185,600 acres	94.2 million
Forest Service Land (NFS)	17 million acres	18%
BLM Acres	8.1 million acres	8.5%
State Lands (DNRC)	5.2 million acres	5.5%
Fish & Wildlife Service	1.1 million acres	
Bureau of Reclamation Land	200,000 acres	
Bureau of Reclamation Water	100,000 acres	
Indian Reservations	5 million	5%
Land in Farms (2002 Census)	59.61 million acres	64.0 %
Block Management	8 million acres	8.5%
Outfitter Lease 8.7 acres in 1995	5.2 million In 2007	5.5%
Leasing Hunting Private leasing		
Ranches that allow to hunters at no c		
Mining Claims		

Farm Land in Mo  
Less BMO's  
Less Outfitted  
Total ranch land n

Accessible Acres i  
some of the inform  
about 37 percent of

Forest Service

BLM

State Lands

Fish & Wildlife Service

Block Management

Ranches that allow access that are  
not in any programs

Estimation of available land

For access:

17.0 million acres

8.1 million acres (not all is accessible some within private land)

5.2 million acres (not all is accessible some within private land)

1.1 million acres

8.2 million acres

?

39.6 million acres

I only a guess and on  
owns and administers

## National and State Forests

Montana includes 11 national forests, 7 state forests, and 12 wilderness areas--totaling more than 17,000,000 acres of public land used for outdoor recreation, wildlife management, and natural extraction. Although there are exceptions, this public forest land generally is located in the mountainous areas of central, southern, and western Montana. In all, Montana contains nearly 12,400,000 acres in 89 wildlands or clusters of wildlands. **The federal government owns and administers about 37 percent of the land in Montana**

## State Parks

Montana contains 89 state parks and monuments that protect natural, cultural, and recreational sites--in addition to the more than 300 state fishing-access sites, five recreational rivers, and several recreational roads and trails. The system encompasses more than 30,000 acres of protected properties. These facilities are found in every county in the state and are favorites for Montana residents and for out-of-state visitors alike.

## Indian Reservations

Montana includes seven federally administered reservations for 11 Native American tribes. These reservations constitute more than 5,000,000 acres of land, on which live 56,068 of the state's natives (2000 census). Indians comprised over six percent of the Montana population in the 2000 census. Montana reservations, tribes, populations, and mailing addresses are shown in the following table.

## Other interesting Montana Facts:

### Population

Montana remains a state of relatively few people: it is ranked 44th among the 50 states. For example, the entire state holds fewer people (2000 U.S. census) than does the city of Birmingham, Alabama or Fresno, California, or Louisville, Kentucky. The 2000 census lists Montana with a total population of 902,195, or about 6.1 persons per square mile (that national average is almost 80 persons per square mile). Montana registered a total population gain of 103,130 (a 12.9 percent increase) between 1990 and 2000.

The 200 federal census shows a general gain in population for the Rocky Mountain areas of western Montana and a general loss for the plains areas of eastern Montana. Montana's seven largest cities (2000 census) are: Billings, 89,847; Missoula, 57,053; Great Falls, 56,690; Butte, 33,892; Bozeman, 27,509; Helena, 25,780; Kalispell, 14,223. In these seven cities live almost 34 percent of all Montanans. The majority of people who migrate to Montana (1998) come from California, Washington, Colorado, Oregon, and Wyoming, respectively.